

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-17, 19, and 20 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Applicants have cancelled Claims 7, 14, and 18, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claims 1–20 are rejected for the reasons discussed below.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 11 and 12 to correct minor inadvertent clerical errors. Such amendments do not relate to the prior art. Applicants believe the amendments to the claims overcome the present rejection, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12, 15, 16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lesea et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,496, 971 ("Lesea"). Claims 3, 7, 14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lesea.

Applicants have voluntarily amended Claims 1, 10, and 15, each believed to be allowable as originally presented, for the purpose of expediting prosecution and not for patentability. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 7, which has been cancelled; Claim 10 has been amended to include the features of Claim 14, which has been cancelled; and Claim 15 has been amended to include the features of Claim 18, which has been cancelled. Such claim cancellations are made without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter of the original

claims (prior to amendment) and subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent prosecution.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 10, and 15, as amended, each recite features not disclosed or even suggested in the art of record. Furthermore, based on the Statement of Common Ownership submitted herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that Lesea, which issued after the filing date of the present application, does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 15 is moot and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1, 10, and 15.

Claims 2-6, 8, and 9 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe Claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Claims 2-6, 8, and 9 are also allowable, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of such claims.

Claims 11-13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 10, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 10. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe Claim 10 is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Claims 11-13 are also allowable, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of such claims.

Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 15, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 15. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants believe Claim 15 is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 are also allowable, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of such claims.

Statement of Common Ownership

The present application and the Lesea reference were, at the time the present invention was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to Xilinx, Inc., the Assignee of the present application.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-17, 19, and 20 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

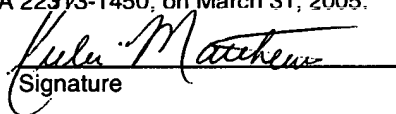
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 31, 2005.

Julie Matthews
Name


Signature